

a plurality of point of care data entry stations respectively having access to at least one of said electronic patient records and respectively in communication with said point of care test devices, each data entry station including means for entering the diagnostic result from the tested biochip into the electronic patient record for the patient, as a tested patient, who provided the sample in the tested biochip, and for entering additional information selected from the group consisting of diagnostic data and patient history data from the tested patient into the patient's electronic patient record, said diagnostic result and said additional information comprising clinical data;

a remote server and an evaluation system accessible by said remote server;

at least one data link between each point of care test device and each point of care data station, and said remote server, for transmitting said point of care raw data and said clinical data to said remote server; and

said evaluation system comprising an expert system operating according to pre-existing expert rules and creating a new expert rule with improved diagnostic utility, composed to said pre-existing expert rules, using all of said point of care raw data and all of said clinical data.

[Claim 2 has been amended as follows:]

2. (Amended) A network as claimed in claim 1 wherein said expert evaluation system uses said new expert rule to devise a measurement protocol.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

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A2 9. (Amended) A method for creating a new expert rule for an expert system from medical data compiled in a clinical study, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a plurality of samples respectively from a plurality of patients and storing the samples respectively in a plurality of disposable biochips, each of said samples including multiple biomolecular markers;

providing a plurality of point of care test devices respectively at a plurality of point of care sites;

respectively receiving said biochips in said point of care test devices, as a tested biochip, and in each point of care test device performing diagnostic testing on the sample in the tested biochip to obtain a diagnostic result;

making the diagnostic result available at the point of care site;

formulating raw point of care data in each point of care test device including the diagnostic result and an identification of the multiple markers in the tested biochip;

providing a plurality of electronic patient records respectively for said patients;

entering the diagnostic result into the electronic patient record for the patient, as a tested patient, who provided the sample in the tested biochip into the electronic patient record for the tested patient together with additional information selected from the group consisting of diagnostic data and patient history data, said diagnostic result and said additional information comprising clinical data;

providing a remote server at a location remote from said point of care sites;

supplying the raw point of care data and the clinical data from all of the point of care sites to said remote server; and
at said remote server, entering said raw point of care data and said clinical data from all of said point of care sites into an expert system operating according to pre-existing expert rules and, in said expert system, creating a new expert rule with improved diagnostic utility, compared to said pre-existing rules, using all of said raw point of care data and all of said clinical data.

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Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the step of creating a new expert rule comprises creating a new expert rule for devising a measurement protocol.

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